

# CANINE LISTENER

DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES • SPRING 2023 • NO.142

## MAKING INDEPENDENCE POSSIBLE





# A HERO'S JOURNEY

It takes a village to raise a puppy, and nothing illustrates that better than mapping out the journeys of our “F” litter! It all started with their breeder caretaker, Cat, who helped DBL Breeder dog Pepper give birth to a beautiful litter of puppies. At 8 weeks, the puppies transitioned to their puppy raiser homes, where they learned the basics – and got exposed to all kinds of things that will help them in their future Assistance Dog careers.

These puppies were born with big dreams of changing lives. Where are they now? Follow along their journey below!



Pepper retired as a Breeder Dog in 2022. She continues to live with Cat, and enjoys her life as a pet dog.

From Cat, “If I had to describe the F litter puppies in one word, it would be ‘purposeful.’ I miss them all so very much, but I am so happy for them to lead such incredible, purposeful lives. And I am honored to be a part of their journey.”

# STAFF UPDATES

## New Staff Focused on Training Shelter Dogs as Assistance Dogs

Dogs for Better Lives recently hired two new staff members who will be instrumental in helping us locate shelter dogs who could become life-changing Service Dogs.

Emily Minah has recently rejoined the staff at Dogs for Better Lives. Emily first began her career with DBL in 2004 and served in a variety of roles during her 17 years with the organization, ranging from trainer, teaching apprentice trainers and in the Client Services department. She is excited to be back with DBL to help expand our efforts to find and train shelter dogs and help them reach their full potential to be Assistance Dogs.

Melissa Fathers is based in the Dallas, Texas area. Melissa will be working under Emily's leadership and alongside shelter staff at Operation Kindness, a large shelter based in Dallas, to locate dogs who could have a future as an Assistance Dog. Melissa is a certified Assistance Dog trainer with over 4 years of experience at Canine Companions, another ADI (Assistance Dogs International) accredited organization. Melissa also has experience in the dog sports world and has fostered shelter dogs. This combination of previous Assistance Dog training as well as knowledge and experience working with shelter dogs makes Melissa the ideal trainer for this program. The dogs that Melissa selects to enter our training program will live in foster homes in the Dallas area – hopefully reducing kennel stress that shelter dogs often experience. Melissa will train the dogs, with the support of their respective foster families.



Emily Minah (left) and Melissa Fathers pictured with a new canine friend they met in Dallas.

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# FEATURED FOLLOW-UPS

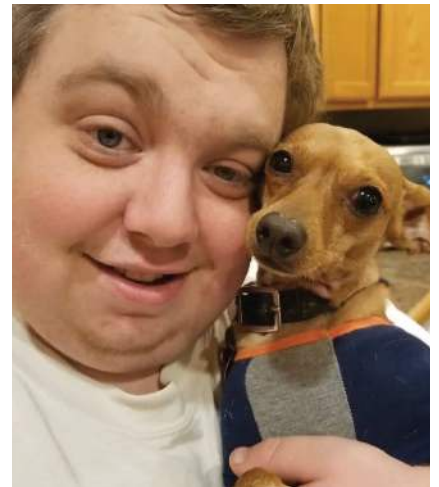


## CHD Tracy and Michele

Michele and Certified Hearing Dog Tracy had their five-year follow-up. The team is still thriving with Tracy working the smoke alarm, cell phone, oven timer, and name call at home. She also works the smoke alarm in the RV on camping trips. They are well traveled and have been all over the US. They are a great team and are doing so well.

## HHD Nemo and Brendon

Home Hearing Dog Nemo lives in New Mexico and has been with Brendon for over 5 years now. Nemo works door knock, smoke alarm, alarm clock, phone, and name call. Nemo still has great enthusiasm for working sounds and is an ace at obedience.



## HHD Rylee and Mary Anne

Home Hearing Dog Rylee and Mary Anne have been a team for over eight years. They spend part of their year in Vermont and the other part in New York. Rylee is a spicy little terrier who keeps Mary Anne on her toes. She says he makes her feel safe in any circumstance where she may have to hear something and it's good to know he is watching her back.

## CHD Raylene and Christine

Certified Hearing Dog Raylene and Christine just had their ten year follow up and they are doing great! Raylene has slowed down in her years but continues to alert Christine to name call, oven timer, and door knock. Raylene now lives in a large retirement community near the beach in Florida. After walking through the community's long halls and showing off her obedience and sound work skills, Raylene was ready for her nap.



# FEATURED FOLLOW-UPS

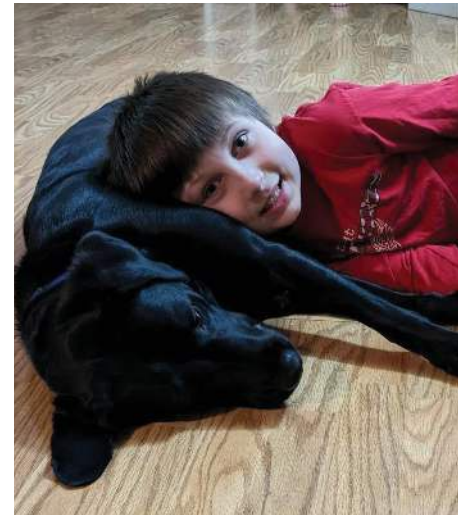


## CHD Fizza and Susan

Certified Hearing Dog Fizza and Susan have been a team for ten years and they are still doing extremely well. Fizza is just as excited to alert to sounds as ever. After all these years, she continues to alert Susan to the doorbell, name call, and oven timer. Susan and her husband Raymond feel so blessed to have Fizza in their life.

## AAD Francine and Timmy

Autism Assistance Dog Francine and Timmy have been together a little over a year now and are doing fabulously! Franny is currently working settle, lap, touch, and tethering in public spaces. The whole family is in love with Francine. Amy (Timmy's mom) stated that 'Francine fit in with their family from day one'. Francine loves cuddling on the chair with Timmy and a heated blanket, going grocery shopping, and providing a sense of security and calm wherever the family goes. Timmy said that, "The house is not a home without Francine there."



### CHD – Certified Hearing Dog

Certified Hearing Dogs respond to sounds in the home and have Public Access with their person.

### AAD – Autism Assistance Dog

Autism Assistance Dogs are specially trained to enhance the safety and well-being of children and families living with Autism by providing a minimum of three tasks to assist with keeping children grounded and focused while presenting a social bridge for relationships and friendships.

### HHD – Home Hearing Dog

Home Hearing Dogs are trained to respond to sounds in the home but are not trained/certified to accompany their person in public.

### FD – Facility Dog

Facility Dogs go to work with and assist professionals such as physicians, teachers, counselors, police officers, and child advocates.



# FEATURED PLACEMENTS



## FD Major and Kristen

Facility Dog Major was recently placed with Kristen in Tacoma, WA. Kristen is a school psychologist at one of the city public schools. Major accompanies her to work each day to help support her students. Kristen works with students on social emotional skills (managing anger/disappointment/sadness etc), provides support for students who may be suicidal or self-harming, and provides IEP testing for kids who may need additional learning support services. Kristin is excited to have Major working by her side because, “animals can often provide emotional support that humans simply can’t.” He is a calming and reassuring presence for her students. He can be utilized as a reward system (play time with Major!) for students that need incentives, and a common topic and relationship builder for students who might be hesitant to open up to her. Major was raised, in part, by a high school student who took him to classes with her daily- so Major is very well versed in working in a high school and well-suited for the job! The tasks he works at the school

are settle, lap, visit, and touch. Kristen adores Major, and it seems entirely mutual.

## CHD Jamison and Samuel

CHD Jamison was placed with Samuel of Maryland. Sam is a young professional in the greater DC area that occasionally heads into big urban areas. Jamison handles all like a pro! He is working smoke alarm, cell phone, oven timer, and name call. They are a perfect match!



## CHD Effie and Dora

Certified Hearing Dog Effie was recently placed with Dora in Wise, VA. Dora and Effie bonded quickly and were excited to work with one another. Dora loves Effie’s soft personality and instantly hit it off with tons of hugs and snuggles on the couch. Dora works from home and is looking forward to having Effie alert her to sounds both in her home office and around her home. She has a young daughter and is most excited to have Effie alert her when her daughter calls out, “mom!” Dora expressed much relief knowing that Effie will be there to alert her when her daughter needs her. In addition to name call, Effie will be working the oven timer, alarm clock, door knock, and smoke alarm.



## DBL Shares Free Planned Giving Resources

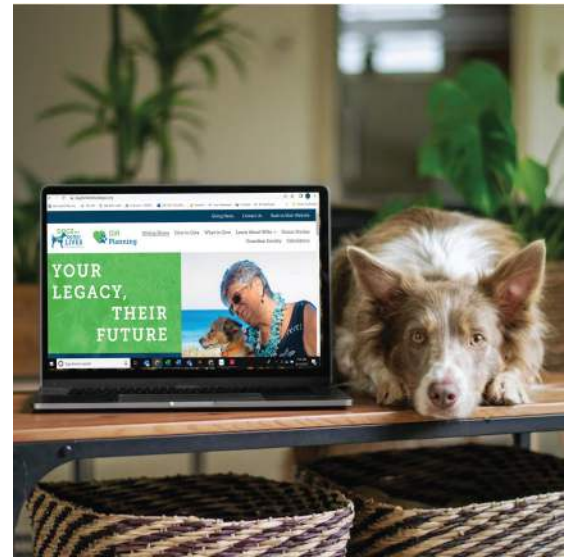
Dogs for Better Lives (DBL) recently added a Planned Giving Director, Wanda Cockey, to our team to better serve members of our community with the legacy planning resources they need while offering a dedicated contact to answer any questions or concerns about legacy plans.

Wanda has been with DBL for nearly 6 years and has spent over three decades matching individuals with the missions of nonprofits they care about. She recently received her Certification as a Planned Giving Specialist through Long Beach State University's Philanthropic Studies.

*"I truly enjoy helping individuals make a legacy gift through their will or trust. Many times it is the largest gift a person will ever make because it will not invade their needed resources today. We consider it a tremendously precious way to thoughtfully share one's lifetime of work for a person needing a life with independence," said Wanda.*

In addition, we have invested in new tools for our donors – free of charge. Our planning resource website features helpful calculators, guides, and news updates, so you can stay informed and empowered. Plus, if you sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, you'll receive even more tips and insights on legacy planning.

We want to make sure that you have everything you need to make a difference for dogs and their human companions for generations to come. Visit [dogsforbetterliveslegacy.org](https://dogsforbetterliveslegacy.org) to access the resources and sign up for our newsletter.



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## A Partnership in Support of Service Dog Health

We're delighted to announce a new national partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. Their generous corporate gift towards our veterinary emergency fund and the provision of "Healthy Habit Kits" for approximately 90 dogs annually, including our newly placed certified Assistance Dogs, career change dogs, and puppy placements, has been invaluable. The kits contain vital heartworm preventatives and flea and tick protection, ensuring the health and well-being of the dogs in our care.

In addition to this, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc has also pledged to provide 100 vaccines annually for Dogs for Better Lives' dogs in training to become Service Dogs, further demonstrating their commitment to our mission. "Boehringer Ingelheim is happy to join Dogs for Better Lives in its unwavering commitment to helping people and changing lives," said Julie Ryan-Johnson, Associate Director, Shelters, at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.

This national partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA will provide more than \$30,000 in financial and in-kind support to Dogs for Better Lives in FY23-24, ultimately keeping our dogs healthy and happy.

"The Healthy Habit Kits, vaccines, and support of our veterinary emergency fund from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA are so appreciated. Veterinary care is a 'must have' when it comes to the care of our dogs, and the expenses add up. The support of our veterinary needs will allow us to focus donor dollars on other areas crucial to the successful training and placement of Service Dogs," said Sarah McCracken, Executive Director, Northeast Region at Dogs for Better Lives.



10175 Wheeler Rd., Central Point, OR 97502



Cover photo: DBL's newest Breeder Dog, Frosty. Photo by photographer Gabrielle Bottcher.

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